ABSTRACT

Richard Creath (Arizona State University), "The Gentle Strength of Tolerance: The Logical Syntax of Language and Carnap's Philosophic Program".

With most philosophers a program is a wellspring of ideas that occasionally crystallizes into a book. In The Logical Syntax of Language, the order is reversed: the book produced the central idea of Carnap's philosophy, namely, tolerance, and this idea generated his program. To see how this might be so I will look first at how the book developed. Even though parts of the finished book do not represent and even disguise the mature ideas and program, the historical development throws light on both the book and its outcome. Second, I will examine tolerance itself to see what opportunities it offers for empiricism and for so-called verificationism. Along the way it will be necessary to distinguish two different senses of 'tolerance'. Third and finally, I want to explore the new program for philosophy that emerged from tolerance in Logical Syntax.